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SUB

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IMMEDIATE

FRP:

STAFF

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~~SECRET~~ NOFORN NOCONTRACT
BRIEF 040537Z
TO: IMMEDIATE ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

(NOFORN IN SLANTS)

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MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA BRIEF FOR 4 DECEMBER 1984.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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1. IRAN-IRAQ: MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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THE TANKER ATTACKED BY IRAQI AIRCRAFT NEAR KHARK ISLAND
YESTERDAY WAS THE LARGEST THUS FAR IN THE GULF WAR.

IRAQI AIRCRAFT ATTACKED A 385,000-TON, CYPRIOT-FLAG TANKER
APPROXIMATELY 70 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KHARK ISLAND. THE EMPTY SHIP
WAS HIT IN THE ENGINE ROOM, AND AT LEAST THREE CREWMEN ARE MISSING.
THE STRIKE IS THE FIRST IRAQI ATTACK ON A TANKER NEAR KHARK SINCE 15
OCTOBER.

// FIGHTING IN THE LAND WAR REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL.

// IRAQ PROBABLY BELIEVES IT NOW HAS THE BACKING OF
BOTH SUPERPOWERS AND IS IN A GOOD POSITION BOTH MILITARILY AND
POLITICALLY TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON IRAN.

// RENEWED IRAQI AIRSTRIKES ARE UNLIKELY TO PUSH UP THE COST OF
SHIPPING AND INSURING IRAN'S OIL EXPORTS UNLESS SUSTAINED AT A HIGH
RATE. TWO ATTACKS IN OCTOBER SIMILAR TO THOSE YESTERDAY HAD NO
EFFECT ON RATES FOR CHARTERING AND WAR-RISK INSURANCE.

// IRAN PROBABLY WILL RETALIATE SOON BY HITTING A TANKER CALLING
AT AN ARAB PORT.

2. IRAN: ANTIREGIME ACTIVITY INCREASING

// TEHRAN SEEMS TO BE GROWING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT
RECENT ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS SPONSORED BY CONSERVATIVE
CLERICS.

THE REPRESSION OF ANTIREGIME
DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE EASTERN IRANIAN CITY OF MASHHAD EARLY LAST
MONTH LEFT 50 DEAD AND 200 WOUNDED. SEVERAL RELATIVES OF GRAND
AYATOLLAH QOMI, A LEADER OF THE ULTRA CONSERVATIVE HOJJIYATIYA SOCIETY,
WERE ARRESTED FOR ORGANIZING THE DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH

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SPREAD TO SEVERAL OTHER CITIES.

MASHHAD ABOUT THE TIME THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE. HE WAS UNABLE TO SECURE QOMI'S HELP IN CALMING THE SITUATION. INSTEAD, QOMI CALLED PUBLICLY FOR ALL SHIITE CLERGY TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE KHOMEINI REGIME AND CONDEMNED CLERICAL DOMINANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AS UN-ISLAMIC.

THE HOJJATIYA, INACTIVE SINCE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI SPOKE AGAINST IT LAST YEAR, HAS RESUMED ITS ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

MASHHAD, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN A CENTER OF ANTIREGIME SENTIMENT. DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED THERE BY THE HOJJATIYA IN 1983 ALSO SPREAD QUICKLY TO OTHER CITIES.

//LAST MONTH'S DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH IN SEPTEMBER OF ANOTHER GRAND AYATOLLAH IN MASHHAD OPPOSED TO KHOMEINI.

KHAMENEI'S VISIT SUGGESTS TEHRAN IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT.

//THE HOJJATIYA SOCIETY PROBABLY HAS RESUMED ITS ACTIVITY NOW TO TRY TO BUILD SUPPORT IN ANTICIPATION OF THE POWER STRUGGLE THAT WILL FOLLOW KHOMEINI'S DEATH.

3. JORDAN-EGYPT-PLO: JOCKEYING FOR POSITION ON PEACE

KING HUSSEIN USED HIS ADDRESS TO EGYPT'S PARLIAMENT TO REPEAT HIS PROPOSAL--FIRST MADE AT THE PNC MEETING IN AMMAN LAST MONTH--FOR A JOINT JORDAN-PLO PEACE INITIATIVE BASED ON UN RESOLUTION 242 AND ON PLO PARTICIPATION "ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH OTHER PARTIES" AT A

UN-SPONSORED PEACE CONFERENCE. PRESIDENT MUBARAK, IN HIS ANSWERING SPEECH, TERMED THE KING'S PLAN A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION BUT INDICATED HIS OWN PRIMARY GOAL IS TO FIND A WORKABLE SOLUTION.

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[REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED] b3
MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS THAN THE REAGAN INITIATIVE. [REDACTED] b3
NSA-

4. ZAIRE: MOBUTU'S PROBLEMS

//MOBUTU WILL BE INAUGURATED TO A THIRD, SEVEN-YEAR TERM TOMORROW AMID SIGNS THAT ZAIRE WILL FACE CONTINUED ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INCREASED DISSIDENT ACTIVITY NEXT YEAR. SEVERAL HEADS OF STATE WILL BE PRESENT, INCLUDING ANGOLA'S DOS SANTOS, AND FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND WILL PAY A STATE VISIT ON FRIDAY. SECURITY IS TIGHT IN KINSHASA BECAUSE OF A RECENT REBEL ATTACK IN EASTERN SHABA AND CONCERN THAT LIBYAN-TRAINED DISSIDENTS MAY ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE CEREMONIES.// [REDACTED] b3

b3 [REDACTED] //INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE REBEL ATTACK AND RECENT UNFOUNDED COUP RUMORS IN KINSHASA PROBABLY HAVE GIVEN A PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFT TO ZAIRE'S MORIBUND OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. DISSIDENTS NOW MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST ZAIRIAN TARGETS IN KINSHASA OR BRUSSELS. ALTHOUGH MOBUTU AND DOS SANTOS MAY HOLD INFORMAL TALKS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM REMAIN COOL, AND THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO HOLD A SUMMIT TO DISCUSS SECURITY ISSUES. MOBUTU'S AGENDA DURING MITTERRAND'S VISIT IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE REQUESTS FOR INCREASED FRENCH AID AND SUPPORT FOR RESCHEDULING ZAIRE'S DEBT AS WELL AS FRENCH POLICY TOWARD LIBYA. [REDACTED] b3

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IN BRIEFS

[REDACTED] b1, b3
AFRICA

--SOUTH AFRICA CLAIMS EVIDENCE ANGOLA IS HELPING SWAPO PREPARE FOR ANNUAL RAINY SEASON INFILTRATION OF NAMIBIA PRETORIA NOT LIKELY TO WITHDRAW REMAINING TROOPS FROM ANGOLA UNTIL LUANDA ACCEPTS BORDER CONTROL ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING JOINT PATROLS INSIDE ANGOLA. [REDACTED] b3

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